

SUPPLEMENT TO THE BOMBAY GAZETTE

BOMBAY:—MONDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1877.

THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET FOR 1878.

A SPECIAL meeting of the Bombay Town Council was held in the Municipal Buildings on Saturday afternoon, for the purpose of further considering the Municipal Budget for 1878. Mr. J. M. Maclean presided, and there were also present Mr. Kirkham, Mr. F. Mathew, Dr. Blaney, Sir F. Souter, the Hon. Mahomed Ali Rogay, Mr. Rugoonath Narayan Khote, Mr. Nanabhoj Byramjee Jejeebhoy, Mr. Nowrojee Furdoonjee, and Mr. Shantaram Narayan.

THE ENGINEER'S DEPARTMENT.

The Municipal Commissioner said—Before we discuss the Executive Engineer's Budget I wish to make a remark in reference to the reductions which I have proposed in the appointments of superintendents, as I think it may save some discussion further on. I consulted the Deputy Executive Engineer on this subject some time ago when I submitted a memorandum to the Town Council on the drainage proposition, and Mr. Braham then agreed with me that two out of the four appointments might be abolished. Now, however, he is of opinion that it would not be advisable to dispense with the superintendent of roads, and, therefore, on that account, and in consequence of the saving which I find can be effected by the lower rates for metalling and sandstone, I propose to leave the superintendent of roads' appointment as it is, and to abolish only the appointment of Superintendent of New Works, which Mr. Braham considers is not required.

It was decided that the point should be considered when the item of the Superintendent of New Works' salary should be reached.

The Municipal Commissioner recommended that after the 1st of July next, when Mr. Walton will return to take up the duties of his substantive appointment of Executive Engineer, he shall receive the maximum salary appointed by the Act. The Commissioner urged that if Mr. Walton had continued in the performance of his regular duties he would have received the increase at the same time that the Health Officer's salary was raised to the maximum. Even when Mr. Walton came back, his duties in connection with the water-works would not cease, as those works would not be completed by that time, and he would have to be constantly going backward and forward.

The Chairman—This is the first intimation we have had that the works will not be completed.

Dr. Blaney said that Mr. Walton's latest report, a copy of which he received yesterday, contained an assurance that the work would be completed, and if it was not completed, there would be a great loss to the city, say 30 or 40 lacs of rupees. It was so serious a matter that if the Municipal Commissioner considered the work would not be finished next year, they ought to try to do something to expedite it.

Mr. Rugoonath Khote—Mr. Walton has been holding out to us a hope that the works will be finished.

The Municipal Commissioner thought the Toolsee works themselves might be finished, but he did not think the water would be in the reservoir—he was afraid not.

Dr. Blaney—On that statement, I propose the Council should devote a day next week to Mr. Walton's latest Progress Report.

Mr. Nowrojee Furdoonjee was of opinion that the Council should look more to the reduction than the augmentation of salaries of their officials.

Mr. Kirkham—Did you object to the increase of the Health Officer's salary on the same principle?

Mr. Nowrojee—I did.

After some conversation, it was decided to leave the matter as it stands at present, and when Mr. Walton returns to his duty as Executive Engineer the question of his salary will be brought before the Corporation.

When the item of the Deputy Executive Engineer came to be considered,

Dr. Blaney said the Deputy Executive Engineer had spent his time during the year in a department with which he had nothing to do, and he had given abundant evidence himself that he was not wanted. It had been said that the drainage question was a question the more writing and the more talking about which only produced the greater confusion; and the Deputy Executive Engineer's reports in the sphere of another man's work were evidence of a want of work in his own department.

The Chairman—I do not think that is a fair remark to make. If Dr. Blaney could show that Mr. Braham had neglected his ordinary office work, there might be some room for the observation; but for employing his leisure time at the request of the Town Council, in writing certain reports, he ought not to be attacked in this unjustifiable manner.

Dr. Blaney said he had been wrong, and would withdraw his remarks.

The Hon. Mr. Rogay—I think we ought to thank Mr. Braham for his reports.

Mr. Kirkham said the discussion was purposeless, as they were bound by the Act to have an officer in charge of this department.

On the proposition of the Chairman the items of Rs. 800 salary and Rs. 160, "contribution towards Government pension, &c. of the Deputy Executive Engineer in charge" was sanctioned.

The abolition of the appointment of "Superintendent of New Works and General Repairs" (salary, Rs. 200 per mensem), as proposed by the Municipal Commissioner, was sanctioned.

Mr. Rugoonath Narayan Khote said the Inspector of

Lighting (salary, Rs. 350), was absent from his duties for 2½ months this year, without any one being appointed to act for him, and he inferred that the appointment was a sinecure, and might very well be abolished.

The Deputy Executive Engineer being appealed to, expressed an opinion that an inspector of lighting was very necessary to test the gas supplied by the Gas Company and to see that the street lamps were lighted and extinguished at proper times.

Mr. Nowrojee Furdoonjee proposed that a payment of Rs. 100 a month should be sanctioned for this purpose, to be paid to some person already connected with the department, who could undertake the work in addition to his present duties.

Mr. Rugoonath Narayan Khote said the Commissioner had told him that there were too many servants of the Municipality and too little work, and he thought the amendment proposed by Mr. Nowrojee should be sanctioned.

Mr. Nowrojee's proposition was agreed to.

THE TRAMWAYS.

In connection with the question of Road Repairs, The Chairman asked if the Municipal Commissioner had in his power to give to the Tramway Company the right of using the whole road. Opposite the Byculla station, the Tramway Company had a stable in a corner which ought to be cut off to improve the street, and they were allowed to encroach on half of what street there was.

Mr. Kirkham thought there was great room for improvement in the road at this point.

Mr. Mathew said he saw from the papers of that day that an extension of the tramway as far as the Victoria Gardens had been sanctioned. He wished to ask whether the proposition ever received the approval of the Town Council. Did the Municipal Commissioner consult the Council on the subject?

The Commissioner—No, I did not.

Mr. Rugoonath Khote—It is a matter entirely in the Commissioner's own discretion.

Mr. Shantaram Narayan asked if it was intended that the tramway should be carried over the bridge at the Byculla station.

The Commissioner—Yes, but there is to be a foot-path on each side for foot passengers.

Mr. Shantaram—There will not be much room for carts and carriages.

The Commissioner—There will be plenty of room for two carriages to pass.

The Chairman—There is a very large amount of traffic over that bridge.

Mr. Mathew thought it was a matter which ought to have come before the Town Council. He knew nothing about it, till he saw the announcement in the newspapers.

The Chairman—Though the Tramways Act gives the Commissioner power to sanction the extensions it does not give him power over the whole roads of the island. We have to pay rates for these roads, and they ought not to be given up to anybody who likes to use them.

Dr. Blaney—By the Municipal Act the roads are vested in the Corporation, and any new legislation, such as the Tramways Act, which takes that right away, infringes the existing Municipal Act.

The Commissioner said he was asked whether he had any objection to the extension, and he replied that he had not, and the application was sent in to Government and sanctioned.

The Chairman—If the Government is going to take charge of the Municipality, of course it is a different thing.

The Commissioner—It is in charge of Government.

Mr. Kirkham said there were more accidents on this bridge than at any other place in Bombay.

Mr. Mathew—There is too much traffic over it now.

The Commissioner—They (the Railway Company?) have agreed to build another.

Dr. Blaney—They agreed to that a number of years ago. Sir F. Souter said the bridge was a very awkward place even now, there was no doubt.

The subject then dropped.

FOOTPATHS.

Mr. Nowrojee Furdoonjee called attention to the state of the footpaths, which, he said, ought to be repaired thoroughly, so that there would be no excuse for foot passengers walking in the middle of the streets where they were liable to accidents.

Sir F. Souter quite agreed with Mr. Nowrojee on this point. The people would not walk on the footpaths at present, because they were rough and cut their feet.

Mr. Nowrojee hoped that what had been said would induce the executive officers to give particular attention to the matter.

SUBORDINATE OFFICERS' ESTIMATES.

The estimate submitted by the Municipal Commissioner for the maintenance of steam rollers was Rs. 20,500.

Mr. Nowrojee Furdoonjee said he had been informed that the Superintendent of Workshops would undertake to perform this work at a cost of Rs. 13,000. He therefore proposed that the Superintendent of Workshops should be asked to submit an estimate.

The Municipal Commissioner said that the Superintendent of Workshops had submitted an estimate, the amount of which was Rs. 15,000. Mr. Nowrojee said then he would propose that the Budget estimate for this work be reduced to Rs. 15,000, and that the work should be placed in charge of Mr. Rowe.

A member asked the Municipal Commissioner if he thought Rs. 15,000 would be sufficient.

The Commissioner—No, I do not. Mr. Rugoonath

Khote said the Council had nothing to do with the question in whose hands the detail work of a department should be placed. They had merely to fix upon the amount to be spent.

The Chairman said it lay with the Municipal Commissioner. If the Commissioner thought fit to adopt the recommendation of any subordinate officer and propose its sanction on his own responsibility to the Town Council, he might do so; but he (the Chairman) objected to the names of subordinate officers being brought up at Town Council meetings in the way they had been during the last week or two. (Hear, hear.)

Sir Frank Souter quite agreed with every word the Chairman had said.

On Mr. Nowrojee's proposition to reduce the estimate being put to the vote, it was lost by a large majority, Mr. Nowrojee and the Hon. Mahomed Ali Rogay alone voting for it.

The amounts sanctioned for the various sub-departments of the Engineer's Department were:—

	Budget estimate for 1878.	Estimate for 1877.	Actual expenditure for 1876.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Executive Engineer's Establishment.....	65,592	69,970	67,180
Public Lighting Branch.....	2,56,878	2,59,878	2,84,659
Road Watering.....	54,627	59,677	64,871
Road Repairs.....	2,56,300	2,70,000	2,53,705

The Council adjourned to Tuesday at 2 p. m.

THE TRAFFIC ON THE B. B. AND C. I. RAILWAY.—The increase in goods traffic on the B. B. & C. I. Railway for the week ending 13th October 1877 was 9,922 maunds and in money Rs. 739. The quantities carried and the earnings compared with 1876 are as follows:—

Description.	Week ending 13th Oct. 1877.	Week ending 14th Oct. 1876.	Increase.	Decrease.
COTTON—				
Weight.....	Mds 2,275	Mds 4,247	...	Mds 1,972
Amount.....	Rs. 1,426	Rs. 2,231	...	Rs. 805
GRAIN—				
Weight.....	Mds 66,224	Mds 27,396	Mds 38,828	...
Amount.....	Rs. 18,448	Rs. 7,534	Rs. 10,914	...
JAGREE—				
Weight.....	Mds 2,272	Mds 2,819	...	Mds 545
Amount.....	Rs. 588	Rs. 728	...	Rs. 140
OPIMUM—				
Weight.....	Mds 73	Mds 391	...	Mds 288
Amount.....	Rs. 185	Rs. 912	...	Rs. 727
P. GOODS AND TWIST—				
Weight.....	Mds 3,154	Mds 9,219	...	Mds 6,065
Amount.....	Rs. 3,311	Rs. 8,227	...	Rs. 4,916
SALT—				
Weight.....	Mds 12,322	Mds 11,404	Mds 858	...
Amount.....	Rs. 3,710	Rs. 2,219	Rs. 1,491	...
SEEDS—				
Weight.....	Mds 1,889	Mds 5,860	...	Mds 4,771
Amount.....	Rs. 186	Rs. 1,347	...	Rs. 1,161
SUGAR—				
Weight.....	Mds 3,578	Mds 4,607	...	Mds 1,029
Amount.....	Rs. 2,031	Rs. 2,643	...	Rs. 612
GENERAL GOODS—				
Weight.....	Mds 52,224	Mds 67,318	...	Mds 15,094
Amount.....	Rs. 14,166	Rs. 17,471	...	Rs. 3,305
TOTAL—				
Weight.....	Mds 1,43,211	Mds 1,33,289	Mds 9,922	...
Amount.....	Rs. 44,051	Rs. 43,312	Rs. 739	...

THE TRAFFIC ON THE G. I. P. RAILWAY.—The increase in goods traffic on the G. I. P. Railway, for the week ending 13th October 1877 was 69,930 maunds and in money Rs. 1,36,779. The quantities carried and the earnings compared with 1876 are as follows:—

Description.	Week ending 13th Oct. 1877.	Week ending 14th Oct. 1876.	Increase.	Decrease.
COTTON—				
Weight.....	Mds 14,313	Mds 1,908	Mds 12,405	...
Amount.....	Rs. 12,492	Rs. 1,833	Rs. 10,659	...
GRAIN AND SEEDS—				
Weight.....	Mds 3,08,249	Mds 3,54,762	Mds 70,791	...
Amount.....	Rs. 1,80,553	Rs. 1,79,061	Rs. 79,365	...
WHEAT—				
Weight.....	Mds 1,17,304	...	...	...
Amount.....	Rs. 67,876	...	...	...
SALT—				
Weight.....	Mds 14,912	Mds 34,014	...	Mds 19,102
Amount.....	Rs. 7,865	Rs. 20,466	...	Rs. 12,601
OPIMUM—				
Weight.....	Mds 1,176	Mds 4,664	...	Mds 3,488
Amount.....	Rs. 3,743	Rs. 11,671	...	Rs. 7,928
P. GOODS AND TWIST—				
Weight.....	Mds 13,445	Mds 10,988	Mds 2,457	...
Amount.....	Rs. 21,714	Rs. 17,177	Rs. 4,537	...
GENERAL GOODS—				
Weight.....	Mds 1,49,721	Mds 1,42,854	Mds 6,867	...
Amount.....	Rs. 1,37,578	Rs. 74,831	Rs. 62,747	...
TOTAL—				
Weight.....	Mds 6,19,120	Mds 5,49,190	Mds 69,930	...
Amount.....	Rs. 4,41,821	Rs. 3,05,042	Rs. 1,36,779	...

* Wheat was included last year with Grain and Seed.

INDIAN EXTRACTS.

THE WEATHER AND PRICES OF GRAIN IN MADRAS.

ACCORDING to native expectations it was absolutely necessary that it should have rained in Madras on Tuesday last, being the second day of the native month, otherwise the prices of grain would again have gone up. Fortunately, there were gentle showers in Mylapore and some other parts of the town, so the bazaarmen are satisfied and have no excuse for raising their prices. A few smart showers of rain fell all over Madras on Wednesday morning between two and four o'clock. During the day, however, the weather was very hot, but clouds were banking up last night and there was just a slight sprinkling of rain at about one o'clock yesterday morning. The out-look assuredly is melancholy, for the North-East monsoon seems to be hanging off apparently. The latest weather telegrams received by the Government from Collectors of Districts show that there has been rain, more or less, in most of the districts, and that the improvement, generally, in the agricultural prospects continues.—*Madras Times*, Oct. 19.

THE VERNACULAR PRESS.
SINGULAR APPEAL.

AN appeal has, we understand, been made to the Government of India by a native nobleman, named Muhammad Akbar Khan Pipulzai, for more adequate protection against the ill-treatment of the Vernacular Press than is afforded him by the present Press Laws. If this gentleman's case is really such as it has been represented to us—and we have no reason to believe it otherwise—it seems to be curiously illustrative of the way in which the liberty of the Press is regarded by the higher class of natives; and we would beg to suggest that the Government would do well to publish both the petition to which we refer, and the answer that may be vouchsafed to it by the authorities. It seems that Muhammad Akbar Khan, though presumably a British subject, is of noble Afghan descent and at present resident in Kabul. Under such circumstances, it seems rather odd that his grievance should be the oppression, not of the Amir or of the Kabul darbar, but—of the Punjab Vernacular Press! He declares that not only he himself, but many other native nobles and gentlemen in every part, suffer grievous injury from the licentious character of the native Press. He points out that the present Press Act—Act XXV. of 1867—is inadequate to protect native gentlemen of rank from the abuse, or the slander, of the native papers; and that, consequently, all who value their reputation are compelled to pay large sums as black mail, or else submit to have their character traduced, to be represented as wicked men or as traitors to Government, and in various other ways to be calumniated. The petitioner complains that, cases under the Act not being appealable, the libellers often manage to escape scot-free; and further that, even if convicted, it generally turns out that they are men of straw, possessing no other property "than their presses and three or four stones, to the value of one or two hundred rupees." The petitioner therefore prays "that no person possessing property of less value than rupees ten thousand may be allowed to be a proprietor or Editor of a Press; that he may not compel anybody to subscribe to his paper; that, when he sends by dak his paper to a subscriber, he may be ordered to show, under pain of a penalty, to the Postmaster, application of that subscriber for the paper; and that the Press Act may be so amended that cases decided under it may be open to appeal."

The petitioner further declares, that defamatory remarks on Rajas and Chiefs are especially "beneficial to such an Editor," for the following reasons: first, the people consider him as their well-wisher; and, secondly, they look upon him as a great authority, as daring to criticise such great personages. Other Rajas and Chiefs dread him, under the impression that he may write against them, as he did against their compeers. They therefore subscribe to his newspaper, and assign an annual sum of money to him. If there be a little delay in the payment of this annual assignment, "he writes in his paper, saying that no good account of such State is nowadays heard of. The annual sum is immediately remitted. The Editor calls over every year to each State, remains there for from twenty to twenty-five days, receives money, khillats, and sumptuous meals, and comes back." We are not in a position to judge how far these statements may be considered to indicate an exceptional state of things, or whether the abuses complained of are common. The statements have been put before us, we are confident, in good faith; and we have no doubt that the Government will see the justice of taking them into consideration, and of making some enquiry into the matter. That they are highly suggestive, and unpleasantly so, we think every one will allow.—*Englishman*.

EUROPEAN AND OTHER EXTRACTS

THE WAR IN ARMENIA.

(Times' Special Correspondent with the Turkish Army.)

ERZERUM, SEPT. 10.

THE conduct of the Circassians, who are deserting in large numbers, is causing Mukhtar Pasha much uneasiness. On Thursday he telegraphed to the Governor of Erzerum to be on the watch for a body of 180, who had deserted en masse. Troops were sent out from here to scour the roads between this and Kara, while the Mushir detached two bodies of regular Cavalry in pursuit. These precautions resulted in the capture of a band of 167 men, all completely armed with repeating rifle and revolver, who stated that, having preferred numerous petitions to the Commander-in-Chief, to which he deigned no reply, they had determined to come to Erzerum and lay them before the Wali. If they were still treated with scorn, they would report the matter to the Sublime Porte and return to their homes. They were disarmed, brought in here as prisoners, and confined in gaol, their officers being allowed out on their parole, unarmed. I have met one of the latter, and must say that their grounds of complaint seem reasonable

enough. They are shared by every officer and man in the Army. "We left our homes," they say, "and volunteered to fight for our religion against our ancient enemy, the Russian; but we are given no pay; we seldom get rations for ourselves, never for our horses; we are given no bedding or blankets either for ourselves or our cattle. In consequence of the presence of the English Pasha, we are not allowed to plunder as our brethren are with Kurd Ismail Hakki Pasha's Army, were the English officers do not mind plundering. In fact, we and our horses were dying of cold and starvation; and so, as Mukhtar Pasha would not listen to our complaints, we came in here." Since the middle of July 2,000 of these men have deserted, and, as they are armed with the best weapons America can produce, the safety of life and property in Armenia has not been enhanced. Bands of Kurds, too, finding no scope for their talents in the vicinity of their clansman's Army, have turned their attention to the rich villages on the Passin and Erzerum plains.

It transpires that the robbers who made an attack on the village of Yamordjik, about four miles from this, were headed by a Kurd named Dobeich, who, of course, had escaped, together with his followers. The village suffered a loss of three men killed and two wounded, while 184 head of cattle and 350 sheep were driven off. One would think it would be easy enough to apprehend a party laden with such booty; but, as a Turkish official said to me, the Ottoman Government does not wish at present to disturb the peaceful relations that exist between them and the Kurds, who, consequently are permitted to rob and murder with impunity.

I received a visit yesterday from a Turkish officer whose acquaintance I made earlier in the war, and who has lately been employed on the Staff of Ismail Pasha's Army. He is a well-educated, intelligent young man, a pupil of the Military School in Constantinople. He spoke with the greatest contempt of the Commander-in-Chief of the Turkish right wing, who, he said, never thought about his soldier's comfort, but considered that if he prayed sufficiently, all would go right. He also spoke in the strongest terms as to the employment of the Kurds, who, he said, hampered all their movements, and brought discredit on the Mahomedan religion by their foul and dastardly crimes; but as they are encouraged by Kurd Ismail Pasha, what can be done? This officer was present at the affair on the 3rd of September, which Ismail Pasha has telegraphed to the Porte as a marvellous victory for the Turkish arms, but which my informant described as a most disgraceful *debandade*. It appears that on the night of the 2d of September Kurd Ismail Pasha sent forward a force to reconnoitre towards Igdyr. It consisted of some hundreds of Arab Irregulars, supported by three battalions, four guns, and a regiment of regular Cavalry. The Irregulars pushed forward, and, under cover of the darkness, entered a walled-in orchard in the immediate vicinity of Igdyr; but, by the usual fatality attending all Turkish movements, the Regulars did not come up until the Russians, having had notice of their advance, were strongly posted to receive them. Lining a rocky ridge, having the appearance of a natural rampart, checking the Turks with their heavy artillery, the Russians, who up to this time had not noticed the occupation of the orchard, were rudely disturbed by a sharp rifle fire upon their right flank. Swinging round a gun, they brought it to bear on the orchard; and, as my informant, who at that moment was conveying an order to the Arab Irregulars, said, the very first shot caused such a panic that, abandoning their horses, these dashing warriors escaped on foot, headed by Sheikh Khalid Effendi, towards the main Turkish body, who also beat a somewhat hasty retreat. The Arabs lost 32 men in the orchard and their Chief, while about 50 more men were cut down in their flight. My friend is not very sparing in his strictures on the senior officers with Kurd Ismail's Army. The sufferings of the men he describes as intense. They have no doctors, no medicines, no hospitals, no litters, and no ambulances for an army of 30,000 men. All sick and wounded are sent in here for treatment, and, as he said, very few ever reach their destination. He told me a story of these same Arab warriors which is worth repeating. It seems that on the 28th ult. Ismail Pasha sent out a party of 120 Arab Cavalry to intercept the Russian post, usually escorted only by 14 men. The Arabs separated into two parties, and one of these, unfortunately, came across the postal escort, strengthened to 35 sabres. The Russians, sending on the letter-bags with two men, dismounted, and, by their accurate rifle fire, checked and finally repulsed the Arabs, who returned to camp, reported that they had killed the whole escort and captured the letter-bags, which contained an enormous quantity of paper-money; but, as they were poor ignorant Arabs, and did not know the value of either letters or money, they had made a great fire and burnt all. It is unnecessary to add that this report, which scarcely bears the stamp of veracity on the face of it, was promptly telegraphed by Kurd Ismail Pasha to the Porte as another Turkish success.

The Russian main Army seems to show signs of more activity. They have brought back their heavy guns from Alexandropol, and have received some trifling reinforcements; but the season is so late that I cannot help thinking they intend to make an intrenched camp at Kurukdara, and remain there during the winter. They would require enormous reinforcements to move Mukhtar from his present very strong position; but it behoves the Grand Duke to strain every nerve to push Kurd Ismail Pasha from his position on Russian soil, and to rid Georgia of Turkish troops before the winter sets in.

THE FEELING AT THE RUSSIAN HEADQUARTERS.

PREPARATIONS FOR A WINTER CAMPAIGN.

(Daily News' Special Correspondent lately with General Gourko.)

GORYN STUDENI, SEPT. 19.

I FIND the feeling here not so gloomy as I had expected. Military men acknowledge that they have been beaten, but as much by their own errors as by the bravery of the Turks, and there is not the slightest sign of hesitation or weakening of the determination to fight it out. The idea of peace is not entertained. Everybody feels that it is a death struggle in which Turkey or Russia must go to the ground irretrievably, and the final issue is not doubted for an instant. Although the struggle must be hard, and may be long, Russia must ultimately crush her adversary, it is held, if only by mere brute force, in default of science, skill, and generalship. Every preparation is being made for a winter campaign.

A military railway from Giurgevo to Simniza is to be constructed, which will, it is hoped, be ready by the end of October, but I predict not before Christmas. Steam ice-boats have been ordered in view of the freezing of the Danube, with intent to keep the river open. A contract has been taken for warm clothing and housing for the troops during the winter campaign. Everything indicates the Russian determination to carry on the war to the end. Anybody knowing the feeling, not only of the Russian nation but of the army, knows that no other policy is possible, but the responsibility of those whose mismanagement of the campaign has so complicated the future may expect a stern reckoning. General Ignatieff is just now under a cloud. The generals who have muddled the war now complain that he did not give them to understand that the Turks would fight so hard, and misled them as to the number of men needed to make an adequate invasion. As well might they say that they did not know the Turks were going to shoot with bullets. All the facts about the Turks were common property before the war; their war strength, their bull-dog courage behind earthworks, their tenacity, their ferocity. Only one element was left out of the calculation, the profound incapacity, of some of this Russian generals.

THE FIGHTING NEAR BIELA.

(Correspondent Daily News.)

VODISTCHA, 18 MILES EAST OF BIELA, SEPT. 21.

A PORTION of Mehemet Ali's army, comprising ten battalions, made to-day an offensive reconnaissance, attacking a strongly entrenched Russian position on the ridge commanding the main road to Biela, about fifteen miles south-east of that town. This ridge runs southward at right angles to the valley of the Banichka Lom, and on the left of the ridge in the valley lies the village called Verbaca. The Russians had established batteries, and had twenty-four guns in action on the crest of the ridge, which was also seamed with trenches, and dotted with rifle pits. The Turkish batteries were planted on the heights on either side the main valley above the burnt village of Ocherkowna.

The engagement commenced at eleven o'clock in the morning with a heavy cannonade. The Turks attacked the Russian right with three battalions. They gallantly pressed up the hill, but being totally unsupported, were driven back by the heavy artillery fire and greatly superior force of infantry on the right. The centre of the Russian position was a thick forest, which the Turks carried, the Russians falling back up the slope. The Turks then assaulted the Russian left, and held the village of Verbaca unsupported for two hours, retiring at five in the evening before heavy artillery fire and a charge of the Russian infantry.

While these movements were in progress, a direct front attack on the position was made by three battalions of Ottoman infantry, who advanced over the crest where the Turkish batteries were posted, and descended into the valley with enthusiastic cheers. As the bugles sounded the advance the Russian guns opened on the battalions with shrapnel. As they topped the ridge we watched them descend swiftly into the valley, break into lines of skirmishers, and undauntedly advance up the slope amidst a tremendous fire of artillery and infantry. These gallant battalions held their ground. At half-past five we saw the Russian infantry stream down the hill and attempt to drive this direct attack back across the valley. But the Ottoman line tenaciously held its own; in a manner which drew forth enthusiastic eulogies from the spectators. The conflict was continued till after nightfall, and the slope was lighted up by flashes of musketry.

I was present throughout the engagement behind the Turkish batteries under a heavy shell fire. The crest from which the headquarter staff and spectators witnessed this brilliant and interesting conflict gave a magnificent view of the whole country southwards to Tirnova. The horizon was bounded by the long blue masses of the Balkans, the mountains of the Shipka Pass towering conspicuously.

THE MILITARY POSITION IN BULGARIA.

(Times' Special Correspondent.)

BUCHAREST, SEPT. 26.

THE weather is clear again to-day and warm. The probability is that we shall now have several weeks of good campaigning after the roads have dried up which will require two or three days of sunshine. The Russians have at last done some work on the roads and bridges leading to their various centres of operation.

Intelligence from Plevna states that the Roumanian trenches have been pushed to within 50 yards of the redoubt north-west of the great redoubt of Gravitza, and, therefore, an assault upon that work is probably imminent. Should this Turkish work fall, the great intrenched camp on the western brow of the ridge upon which stands the Gravitza redoubt will probably be the next object of attack. This camp is the key of the Plevna position. It overhangs the city, and dominates the redoubts west and south-west of the village of Gravitza, and should it fall, the Turkish centre would be pierced and the position untenable. The capture of the redoubt against which the Roumanians are now working would give the besiegers very favourable facilities for attacking the intrenched camp. Straight along the line of this ridge, where the Roumanians are advancing, was the true direction of attack upon Plevna. Had the Russian Commander-in-Chief commenced on this line with pick and shovel, and merely intrenched himself on the crest of the line around Plevna to prevent flanking sorties from the garrison, while his eminently superior force of Cavalry prevented convoys of provisions approaching from the south and west, he might have taken Plevna, with one-fourth the loss he has now sustained, without, too, making sensible impression on the Turkish lines. This ridge, running east and west, was the palpable highway into the heart of Osman Pasha's position, and his desperate defence and attempted recapture of the great redoubt shows his appreciation of the facts above stated. This ridge dominates all the other Turkish fortifications, and, therefore, must depend upon its own strength alone. Hence a tyro in military engineering should have been able to see that this was the true point of attack. But the tyro was not on the Russian Staff, or his counsels were unheeded, and several assaults

were ordered all along the line, in the hope that some of them might be fortunate enough to succeed. The folly of this plan of attack was forcibly illustrated by the fate of Skobeleff, and as all the rest of the assailing force was killed, wounded, or dispersed, there were no supports to send him.

Despatches received here from Staff officers in front of Plevna express the utmost confidence that the place will fall into their hands. Should Osman Pasha's Army be finally destroyed, there is nothing to prevent a great flank movement down the valley of Sofia to Adrianople and the Turkish capital itself. Suleiman Pasha has squandered the lives of his Army on the forts in the Shipka Pass, and were he to attempt a withdrawal to oppose this flank movement, he would have Radezky at his heels at once, and his Army would have their hands full enough without attempting to meddle with the Plevna army of allies.

The Servians have large stores of provisions on their frontiers, and a large arsenal in the town of Kragujevatz, hidden among the mountains in the heart of their country, where shells and cartridges for Russian rifles and cannon may have been manufactured without foreigners knowing anything about it. They have had skilled workmen there from private arsenals in Germany, and could easily replace the Russian line of communications with the Danube by another via the valleys of the Morava, Timok, and Sofia.

Should Mehemet Ali Pasha attempt to move to the southward, the Russian hordes of Cavalry would entangle him at every step, while the Russian Infantry, with its superior mobility, would strew his line of march with the bodies of his men. Perhaps it is with a view to some thing like the above that the Russian commanders keep their hold on the Shipka Pass and persist in their attacks upon Plevna. There is no doubt but what the Turkish powers of resistance are strained to a high degree of tension, and, in such circumstances, semi-civilized organizations like those of Turkey are liable to collapse in the most unexpected manner; so that, in spite of the gross blunders of the Russian Staff, a great change is possible at any moment in the military situation in Bulgaria.

The severe censures upon the Russian Transport Service have been called forth, not so much on account of its deficiency in quantity and material as by the stupid want of service and intelligent management in handling it. The advent, therefore, of some good transport director, which, of course, is not an impossibility, would soon effect a change of things, and produce a corresponding improvement in all the field operations. The same remarks apply to the Russian Hospital Service. They have plenty of material, but the medical officers complain—and justly, no doubt—that they are never given any hints as to where their field hospitals and depots would be required, and, consequently, they have been unable to concentrate their supplies at the requisite centres in time to prevent much needless suffering among their wounded. Up to the commencement of the siege of Plevna the Russian Army had lost very little by sickness. My knowledge is derived from an inspection of the burying-grounds. Every village has its churchyard—in fact, two of them, since the Christian and Moslem dead are interred in separate cemeteries: and, therefore, the village graveyards tell the story of the Russian deaths by ordinary sickness. The numbers of these graves are surprisingly small, compared with the usual percentage of deaths from natural causes.

There is an abundance of wheat and barley remaining in Bulgaria. Every hamlet is crowded with immense stacks of these grains, while a very large crop of Indian corn is awaiting the husbandman. Very little of these crops raised this year in Roumania has been touched by the Russians; consequently, they have provisions in abundance for man and beast. If they can surmount the difficulty of obtaining fuel, they can winter in Bulgaria very comfortably.

This is the situation of affairs at present. With the continuance of past bad generalship on both sides, anything and everything is possible; but, with the advent of a good commander, possessing necessary powers, it can be seen from the above sketch that the whole aspect of the campaign may be changed in a week.

As to the present morale of the Russian forces, there is some difference of opinion; but, from my own experience with them, I am convinced that although the Russian soldier is unreserved in his comments on what he deems bad management on the part of his commanders, he forgets all his past grievances when he sees the hated Moslem, and goes at him as though he had always been commanded by Napoleon.

No official news has been received here to-day from the front, all military operations having been arrested by the past two days' rain. The temperature has changed suddenly, and it is now quite chilly. This is probably an earnest of clear weather.

General Todleben left here last night for the front. Two regiments of Cavalry of the Guard passed through Bucharest to-day. The Infantry of the Guard and other Divisions go by train to Fratesti. They are passing here every day on their way to the front.

The two captured Turkish guns mentioned the other day as being of English manufacture were made in Germany.

THE LOM.

(Times' Correspondent with Mehemet Ali.)

SHUMLA, SEPT. 26.

Continuous wet weather renders transport by heavy vehicles quite impracticable.

Out of solicitude to secure supplies and on account of the massing of very considerable forces of the enemy on the Lom, as ascertained by reconnaissances, Mehemet Ali, on the 24th was induced to lead back his army to its previous excellent positions on the Kara Lom.

THE WAR.

(Times, Sept. 26.)

THE account of the action at Cerkovna which we have received from our Correspondent with the Army of Mehemet Ali not only gives a vivid description of the unsuccessful Turkish advance against Verboka, but throws considerable light on the previous movements of the Army of Shumla. This Army consists of two Corps. The first Corps, named the Corps of Rasgrad, forms the right of the advance. One of its Divisions, which appears to form the extreme right flank of the whole line, that of Fuad Pasha, was engaged in the action of Kacelyevo on the 5th of

September, and of Sinankoi on the 15th. The Division of Nejib Pasha, which seems to be the left of the Corps of Rasgrad, was engaged at Karahassankoi on the 30th of August, and furnished the ten battalions that formed the first line on the 21st of September at the action near Cerkovna. At the latter place, however, there were also present some Egyptian battalions. None of the Egyptian troops are, however, included in the 1st Army Corps. They form part of the 2d Army Corps or Corps of Djuma, which is commanded by Prince Hassan, and are for the most part incorporated in its first Division. This Division is the right Division of the 2d Corps. It would thus appear that on the 21st of September at Cerkovna the extreme left of the Corps of Rasgrad and the extreme right of the Corps of Djuma were engaged. Should this calculation be correct, it shows that Mehemet Ali has not moved directly against the Russian line in front of the Jantra. His main body was originally considerably north of Rasgrad in the direction of Rustchuk. It then seemed that he proposed an advance against the left centre of the Army of the Csarewitch. Such a course offered to him brilliant strategical results. If he could burst through the Russian line between Biela and the Danube he would be close to the bridges at Sistova, the most important point in the Russian line of communication, and could have cut off the retreat of the divisions of the Csarewitch stationed south of his point of attack, and have also seriously threatened the safety of the army in front of Plevna. If such was his intention, he seems speedily to have abandoned it. Possibly the entrenched camp which is held by the Russian 12th Corps in the vicinity of Tristenik appeared too formidable an obstacle to an advance along the bank of the Danube. He then seems to have begun a diagonal movement towards the southwest, probably with the intention of turning the Russian right flank in front of Biela. This supposition is borne out by the distribution of the troops in the affair of Cerkovna on Friday last. That place lies about 15 miles to the south-east of Biela, and there we find towards the end of last week the left of the Corps of Rasgrad and the right of the Corps of Djuma; in fact, the centre of the Army of Mehemet Ali. At this time the two Divisions of Salih Pasha and of Salim Pasha, which form the left of the 2d Army Corps, were probably south of Cerkovna. Some colour is thus given to the idea that the combat at Cerkovna may have only been brought about through a reconnaissance undertaken to ascertain the strength of the enemy being carried too far by the uncontrollable valour of the Ottoman soldiery. If it were so, however, it has proved ill-advised, for it has laid bare the dispositions of the Turkish Commander. Such is frequently the result of reconnaissances in force. They are double edged tools in warfare, and should be very sparingly used. They always cost a considerable sacrifice of men, not unfrequently betray the designs of the general who employs them, and the information that they gain can usually be more satisfactorily obtained by small parties of active horsemen.

The results of the action at Cerkovna have not yet become manifest. It is possible that Mehemet Ali, assured of the strength of the Russian position in that direction, has fallen back with a view of more closely concentrating his whole force towards his left, and making a push round the flank of the Csarewitch still further to the south. Such a retrograde movement would not have been required had Suleiman Pasha, instead of wasting time and men in his wild assaults on the works of General Radezky in the Shipka Pass, crossed the Balkans by the Iron Gate, and moved against the Jantra on the left of Mehemet Ali. The latter commander has now little prospect of successfully pursuing any other than a flank movement. He justly does not seem disposed to again assail the intrenchments on the Banicka-Lom, as our correspondent at Shumla informs us that till the day before yesterday there had been no engagement of masses of troops in that direction, but merely alarms and skirmishes conducted by cavalry.

On the western side of the theatre of war, Turkish accounts state that 20 battalions of infantry, a regiment of cavalry, with two batteries which had advanced from Orhanie, escorting a large convoy of ammunition, succeeded on Sunday in penetrating into Plevna. The Russian official telegrams confirm the appearance of this force in the neighbourhood of Plevna, as the Russian cavalry fell in with it on the 20th and 21st on the Sophia road, and was obliged to retire in front of its infantry near Dubnik, about eight miles from Plevna. It is most extraordinary that if on the 21st the Russian cavalry fell in with this convoy and reported its appearance to Head Quarters measures were not taken to prevent its gaining entrance to the fortress. The successful passage of a convoy through hostile lines is one of the most delicate operations of war. The lines of waggons not only force an escort to march slowly, but also require a large force to guard them, especially when they are liable to be assailed by cavalry. The Russian army at Plevna should have abundance of cavalry, for there are there the 4th and 9th Cavalry Divisions, as well as the Kuban and Terek Cossack Regiments, and such of the Cavalry of the Guard as has already entered Bulgaria. To support the cavalry there was plenty of time to bring up infantry, even if there was previously no force of that arm on the left bank of the Vid, unless the army blockading Plevna has been so much reduced in strength that it is incapable of finding the necessary detachments for one of the ordinary duties of an investment. On the other hand, our Correspondent at Bucharest tells us that Colonel Joursohine has occupied a selected position to bar the Ottoman reinforcements and supplies from entering the position of Osman Pasha. As we must give the Russian Staff credit for sending a detachment of infantry to assist this cavalry commander, we cannot accept without further confirmation the report that the convoy has actually entered the place, although so far back as Friday it was confessedly within a few miles of it. It is difficult to see how the relief despatched from Orhanie by Chefket Pasha was enabled to come so close without being long previously discovered and molested by the horsemen of the Grand Duke Nicholas. The existence of a force at Orhanie intended to relieve the Ottoman commandant of Plevna has for long been commented upon, and should certainly have been well known at the Russian Head Quarters. It is surprising that its every movement has not been jealously watched by the Cossack cavalry, and its every attempt to advance dogged and reported, if not, indeed, hampered by the Muscovite horsemen.

If this convoy has truly arrived in safety, the advantage thus gained to the cause of Islam is second only to that which would accrue from the winning of a decisive victory by Mehemet Ali of the Jantra. The fall of Plevna would be indefinitely deferred, and the troops of Osman Pasha would

be so far reinforced as to make them equal if not superior in strength to those in front of him. But this advantage will not long endure. The allied army near Plevna numbered at the beginning of the bombardment 80,000 men. Its losses are estimated at 25,000 men. Thus of the original strength there remain about 50,000, making a considerable allowance for sickness. The forces of Osman Pasha mustered originally at the outside 60,000 men. It is reasonable to suppose that he has lost at least 15,000. The 20 battalions now added to his strength will hardly bring in more than 10,000 effective bayonets, so that he now probably possesses also about 50,000. But the Russian reinforcements are rapidly arriving, and General Todleben, whose presence will probably be worth more than 10,000 men, will in a few hours be on the scene to press the siege with all the energy of his determined character and all the resources of his engineering skill.

The official Russian account we published yesterday of the assault on Fort St. Nicholas on the 37th can be easily followed by the aid of the plan we publish this morning. The more the details of the events at this point are considered, the more extraordinary and anomalous does the conduct of Suleiman Pasha appear. It can hardly, however, be believed that his strategy is dictated solely by his own personal will and is not, at least endorsed, if not prompted, by superior authority. It was reported some weeks ago that he had been imperatively ordered to discontinue his front attack and to cross the mountains by another road. If this order were really given it has remained unheeded. The probability is that no such order was issued, and that the leader of the Army of Montenegro is encouraged, if not constrained, to pursue the course that he has adopted by some general plan of the campaign drawn up at the Seraskierate.

It is said that the Russians intend to continue active operations during the winter. They argue that their troops inured to cold, will suffer less than the Turkish battalions recruited in Asia. This may be correct. But it must be remembered that the winter in Bulgaria is not a Russian winter. The great obstacle to military operations during the approaching months will be rain rather than frost. Wet weather will make the tracks which are dignified with the name of roads passable only with great difficulty, and from this cause that army will suffer the most that has the longest line of communications and depends the most upon its transport trains for its food. The Turks in both these respects have the advantage.

In Asia there are reports of an expected renewal of hostilities. The Army of Alexandropol has received reinforcements, it is said, to the amount of 20,000 men, and is to resume the offensive. On the other hand, Kord Ismail Pasha is reported to be pressing back General Tergukasoff, and to confidently anticipate the occupation of Erivan. A winter campaign would be even more severe in the highlands of the Armenian frontier than in the plains of Bulgaria, but for this very reason may have been determined upon by the Imperial Government.

(Times, Sept. 28.)

A Russian official bulletin issued on Wednesday acknowledges that the convoy escorted by Hafzi Pasha forced its way through the allied cavalry covering the road from Sofia to Plevna and entered the lines of Osman Pasha last Saturday. It is added that the details of the operations on that day are unknown. This information is candid, although it must have been extremely bitter for the Russian Head Quarters to promulgate. The curt brevity of the announcement indicates considerable dissatisfaction on the part of the Imperial authorities. Nor is this to be wondered at, for the passage of this force into Plevna not only gives physical aid to the defence, but discloses either great negligence or much weakness on the part of the commander of the blockading army. Two days before it forced its way within the Turkish works the column of Hafzi Pasha was encountered by the Muscovite cavalry. There was plenty of time then to bring up infantry to oppose its further progress. If the infantry was available and was not despatched on this important duty the Chief of the Staff betrayed a want of due precaution. If the approach of the convoy was known, but no infantry could be detached from the forces near Radichevo or Gravitz to oppose him, the force in front of the Ottoman fortifications must be far too weak for the task assigned to it. But even without the presence of infantry, it is difficult to understand how a force of only 12,000 men was able to pierce the curtain of cavalry which might have been drawn up to bar its way, and at the same time to secure the passage through the opposing squadrons of long trains of waggons. With the allied army in front of Plevna there are three divisions of Roumanian cavalry, three divisions of Russian horse, and the Cossack brigade, formerly commanded by General Skobeleff. These should muster, if at all approaching their regulated strength, at least 10,000 sabres and lances. Such a force should have been able to bar the advance of the head of the enemy's column, envelope its flanks, harry its rear, and carry confusion and disorder into the whole line of waggons which accompanied it. This would have been expected from the horsemen of any nation, but more might justly be demanded of the Russian troopers, if we are to give any credit to the accounts that have been widely spread of the efficient manner in which they act as infantry when dismounted. Whatever the explanation may be of the cause that has led to the success of Hafzi Pasha, the fact is now uncontested that he has safely carried reinforcements, supplies, and munitions into the intrenched lines held by Osman Pasha, and his being able to do so demonstrates that the fortress is not invested, but is being merely attacked on a portion of its front.

In these circumstances it is of little avail that the Roumanians have sapped up to within 50 yards of the redoubt which at a distance of 200 yards commands with its fire the great work that they have already occupied. The most difficult portion of their task, even as far as this redoubt is concerned, is still before their pioneers. The sap must be carried in the last 50 yards up the glacis, and the descent into the ditch must still be made. Under the fire of the breechloaders of the garrison it will be extremely difficult to establish breaching batteries, and probably the actual advance against the ramparts will have to be made by the aid of mines. Turkish engineers have never been found wanting in a capacity for subterranean warfare. Counter-mines will probably be freely employed, and many days may probably be expected to elapse before the assault can be delivered. Its success then is problematical, for the attacking columns must advance from narrow trenches and will be able to rush upon the breach only with a small front. If this redoubt falls, a distance of

1,500 yards separates it from the intrenched camp at the western extremity of the Gravitz ridge, which alone commands the works below Radichevo, and a long time must be required to carry trenches across this space of ground. The Russian troops on the left of the Roumanians seem to make no progress in their siege operations; yet we can hardly believe that they are stayed, as has been reported by the want of intrenching tools. They have been steadily intrenching themselves hitherto, and even if the Army of Plevna is deficient in spades and shovels, the experience of Mehemet Ali at Cerkovna shows that the position of the Csarewitch is securely fortified, and that some of his field stores could be forwarded to the west. It is more probable that the 9th and the 4th Army Corps do not advance parallels or push saps forward, because they have not men sufficient to furnish the necessary working parties and guards for the trenches, and at the same time to hold their own lines secure against surprise.

It is said that the Russian official accounts acknowledge a loss since crossing the Danube of 47,400 men. But how this loss has been ascertained we are not informed. As no roll-calls are made, it can only be supposed that these figures have been obtained from the number of sick in hospital and dead buried on the fields of battle. Such a reckoning would, however, give a total far below the real sum for many men disappear, many wounded and dead are never found, and all the missing are entirely lost sight of in such a manner of counting loss. But the smaller the Russian loss is found to be, the greater must be the failure of the military administration. The seven Army Corps and four detached Divisions which crossed the Danube should have mustered on paper at least 250,000 men. If the loss, as reckoned above, be deducted, there should still be 200,000 men in Bulgaria without including the reinforcements or the Roumanians. No one can believe that this number of combatants is present with the standards. The Russian force in front of Plevna does not now avowedly number 40,000. The army of the Csarewitch is not at the outside more than 50,000 strong, and Radetzky has not more than 20,000 men in the Shipka Pass. Even these figures are probably higher than the actual force. Either the strength of the Army originally must have been greatly exaggerated on paper, or the losses have been much more severe than the returns have allowed.

Our Correspondent at Bucharest tells us that the weather is again clear and warm, but when the Bulgarian summer has once broken, little reliance can be placed on any succession of fine days. The rain has already made an impression on the Russian communications, for although the roads where they have been repaired are passable, the central island at the Sistova bridge is said to be a sea of mud. For some cause—possibly the recent rains or the want of transport—the advance of Mehemet Ali has been checked, and it is even reported that he is retreating to the Kara Lom. It may be that he considers the object of his demonstration achieved since Hafzi Pasha has brought stores into Plevna, and that he does not care to risk an engagement when he believes that the approach of wet weather will soon render operations impracticable. It cannot be supposed that the course of his movements has been paralyzed by the disinclination of Suleiman Pasha to move into the plains and to abandon the assault on the Shipka Pass. That General has never undertaken to descend from the mountains to reinforce the army of Shumla. He may not unnaturally suppose that his steady perseverance in front of the works held by General Radetzky may be of great advantage to the Ottoman cause, and occupy in the mountains a Russian corps of 20,000 men, who, joined to the army of Plevna, or to the divisions of the Csarewitch, might add a force that could turn the scale against Osman Pasha or Mehemet Ali. It is difficult to perceive the full objects of Suleiman's strategy, but he has certainly proved himself a bold and intrepid leader, and till the result of his operations is made manifest, and their full purport discovered, it is but fair to suppose that he is acting with adequate reason. His characteristic bravery, the self-denial and abstemiousness of his mode of life, his cool nerve and undaunted courage, and his high military reputation, which was appreciated on all hands till his check in front of the formidable Fort St. Nicholas, should now be remembered.

THE PENGE MURDER CASE.

(Times.)

THE trial of the last seven days at the Central Criminal Court has concluded with a verdict of "Guilty" against the four prisoners charged with the murder of Harriet Staunton. It is rarely that our Courts have to investigate a more revolting narrative than that disclosed in the history of the Stauntons; and an exterior of seamliness had been maintained which makes the contrast of their actual life more shocking. There were apparently no elements of lawless violence, of savage passion; yet of the baseness of Louis Staunton in availing himself of the weakness of the unfortunate woman of whose murder he is now convicted there can be no question. He married her simply to possess himself of her fortune, and, having attained this object, even on the showing of the defence, abandoned her to squalor and wretchedness. It was not enough, however, to cast her forth penniless. This might have been the act of a more reckless scoundrel than Louis Staunton has proved himself to be, but in this way she might have fallen into the hands of those who would have at least exposed his villainy. Her mother had never ceased to watch over her, and it was important for the sake of the proprieties, to keep the plaudered wife secluded from her relatives. Patrick Staunton, the brother, and his wife undertook this duty, and, according to the story of the defence, while they were engaged in it the unhappy woman passed away—neglected it is true, ill-treated it may be, but by the operation of disease, not starved to death, as alleged by the prosecution. Thus the domestic scandal brought to light was in the main the defence relied on. It was thus the prisoners sought to explain the indefatigable efforts made to conceal the existence of Harriet Staunton at the Woodlands; and, once her existence there had been kept secret, the efforts to conceal her death, as by removal to Penge, followed as a matter of course. This is one obvious mode of seeking to explain the facts on which the prosecution relied to support their case against the prisoners. The loathsome character of the whole story is so naturally revolting that one of the most difficult tasks for the jury in such a case was to approach an examination of the evidence against the prisoners without a vehement bias. Against this disadvantage, however, our criminal procedure goes far to

secure accused persons. The counsel for the Crown in this country invariably decline to take advantage of adventitious circumstances to snatch a verdict from the sympathies and antipathies of a jury, and in this particular case Sir John Holker's bearing and language, both in his opening statement and in the summing up, were thoroughly consistent with the higher traditions of our Courts. The four prisoners—the two brothers Louis and Patrick Staunton, the wife of the latter and her sister, the mistress of Louis—were represented by separate counsel, who each urged every circumstance which might tend to disentangle his client from the charge of conspiracy to murder; but the jury, after this long inquiry, have concluded that murder was committed; and, though Elizabeth Staunton must have been the active agent in the perpetration of the crime, they have given her, as well as her sister, the benefit of a recommendation to mercy, holding, apparently, that the primary criminal was the husband, who attained his end through the agency of his brother and his brother's wife.

Louis Staunton, it would seem to be admitted, got hold of this unfortunate, weak-minded woman for the miserable object of profiting by the money set apart as a provision for her. In possession of £1,600, with £2,400 in expectancy, an hysterical woman of some 25 years, she appears to have been more than her mother could manage, and when in 1874, while living apart from her mother, she found in Louis Staunton a suitor for her hand, the mother lost all control over her. She was married in spite of the efforts of the mother to defend her by placing her under the protection of the Court of Chancery, and by the marriage the husband acquired the right not only to receive the income of Harriet Staunton's money, but to apply the principal as he might think fit. Did our law resemble that of many countries which have followed the Civil Law, whatever the motives of this marriage might have been, a certain circumspection in conduct towards the wife would have been necessary if any advantage was to be derived from her property after her death. The husband might have extorted the enjoyment of her money during her lifetime by violence or terror, but after her death it would have been distributed among her kindred, unless she had made a will in favour of her husband, and such a will in the circumstances would have been liable to a formal legal ordeal, which probably people like the Stauntons would hesitate to face. But under the present law of personal property there was no such obstacle to the appropriation of the unhappy woman's money. The husband became absolute possessor of Harriet Staunton's money, and on the supposition that the possession of this money was the one object of the marriage, she remained merely an odious incumbrance. Notwithstanding the violence of the conflict between Harriet and her mother in reference to this marriage, the daughter seems to have retained some affection for her mother, and when Mrs. Butterfield called on her, about a month after the marriage, she was received apparently with natural affection, and spent some time with her and Louis Staunton. This visit was, however, followed by a letter from the husband, supported by another from the wife, forbidding Mrs. Butterfield the house. If her evidence is accurate, there was only one thing to explain this step, so suddenly taken after the apparently friendly interview of a few days previous—namely, that Louis Staunton was determined to separate his wife altogether from her mother. This resolution to repel the only person in the world who had any interest in the unhappy woman, and whom she appears not to have regarded with unkindness, was steadily maintained to the end of this miserable union. Harriet Staunton was married in June, 1875, and saw her mother for the last time in the following July. In May 1876, after the birth of a child, she removed to Norwood, and previous to this it is alleged that she complained of too great an intimacy between her husband and a connection of his family, Alice Rhodes. The summer and autumn of 1876 were passed at Norwood, and in November Harriet is found in a remote part of Kent, no longer in her own house, but in the care or custody of her husband's sister-in-law, Elizabeth Staunton, the wife of Patrick Staunton, and a sister of Alice Rhodes. Patrick Staunton, the brother, was by profession an artist, and his profession might supply adequate reasons for his choice of this romantic situation. Louis meanwhile, with Alice Rhodes living as his wife, occupied a farm some distance off. The existence of Harriet Staunton shut up in her brother-in-law's house at the Woodlands was concealed from the whole neighbourhood. According to the prosecution, this concealment was intended to cover the process of slowly starving her to death. In April last she was rapidly sinking, and the four prisoners assembled and removed the dying woman to Penge on the 12th. When she arrived in this new locality a doctor was sent for, and she died the next day. Vague statements were made to the doctor as to her condition, and she would have been interred without further question had it not been for the fact that Mrs. Butterfield had been recently stimulated to renewed exertions as to her daughter's residence, and her inquiries came to the ears of the neighbours.

It is remarkable that hardly any evidence was offered by the prosecution as to the relations of the deceased and her husband during the first year of the marriage. The question mainly turned on what happened at the Woodlands, from November, 1876, to April, 1877, and for that mysterious sojourn we are obliged to depend principally on the servant, Clara Brown. This girl is a connexion of the Rhodeses, and has told somewhat divergent stories at different stages of the investigation. Yet she is almost the only witness who was able to supply anything like a clue connecting the medical evidence as to the cause of Harriet Staunton's death with the previous interval. The doctors examined for the Crown are agreed that the woman died from emaciation, and Clara Brown's evidence, if it can be depended on, goes to tell how this process was made to work during the long dark months of the Winter of 1876 and the Spring of this year. It is impossible to survey the evidence in this cause without reflecting on the peculiarity of our rule of evidence which shuts the mouths of the prisoners at a criminal trial. After the medical evidence, the chief question in the case was the truthfulness or the accuracy of Clara Brown. This question could hardly have remained a matter of doubt if the four prisoners in the dock could have been each submitted to examination. The prisoners and Clara Brown are the only living persons who know what really happened during these previous months, but four of them were absolutely silenced by the forms of our procedure. As it is, the jury have had to grope their way as best they could. They had to balance, on the one hand,

the various expedients to which the efforts of the prisoners to conceal the social infamy of their position might give rise, the liability to misconstruction which the malice, or the incapacity, or self-interested alarms of Clara Brown might expose them, and on the other, the difficulty of accounting for the condition in which Harriet Staunton was found, while in the custody of those responsible for her proper care, and who had an evident interest in violating that duty so as to destroy her life. To determine the problem when the evil impulse of which the jury seem to have assumed the existence became active so as to amount to the actual guilt of murder was an inquiry of singular difficulty. A great writer of our time has given the world a striking picture of one who desired another's life hesitating on the brink of actual murder. But in Bulstrode, by the bed of Raffles, the struggle was only of a few hours' duration. The incidents were few and the time short to estimate the degrees of guilt. In the case decided close to midnight yesterday the history of many months goes to spell out the tale. It is only in following the continuous chain of circumstances, all, however isolated, still tending during all this time in the one direction, that we get at the grounds on which the main lines of Clara Brown's story have been accepted as true. In the actual process of doing Harriet Staunton to death Alice Rhodes had hardly any participation. Her presence on the 12th of April would only compromise her on the supposition that she knew everything that had preceded and was now assisting at the finishing stroke, and of this knowledge there is only inferential evidence. But she was naturally the person most interested in the success of the murder, and she was in daily and intimate association with the actual murderers. We presume that the jury, though they have strongly recommended her to mercy, were so influenced by the supposed strength of the interest she had in the death as to come to the conclusion that they could not separate her guilt in degree from that of her sister who had reduced the woman to this dying condition, nor from that of the brothers, who had laid the scheme.

THE ENGLISH AMPHITHEATRE.

[There may have been no worse fault than thoughtlessness; but would it not have been well yesterday to hide away that number of *Punch*, to keep the opera-glasses in the background, if they were necessary at all, and certainly to endeavour to support exhausted nature without foaming glasses of champagne, which were actually consumed in open court at luncheon time?—Reporter of the Staunton Trial.]

"DEAR Lord Tomnoddy, 'twas quite too kind: Our seats are excellent; thanks so much. We can see and hear everything quite to our mind, Nor lose a single sensational touch."
"Delighted, I'm sure, to have been of some use, So lucky you chanced to be 'passing through.'"
"Yes, wasn't it?" "Just when I sought an excuse—"
"For what?" "Can you ask? for a chat with you." Just a glass of champagne, if it isn't too dry."
"Thanks, thanks! You must act cicerone as well. You know I have only just come." "No; try Whether each of the four at a guess you can tell. You won't? Oh, how awfully lazy you are! I always believed you were proud of your skill As a physio—what is it?" "Yes; but so far From the dock—" "Here's the opera-glass if you will."
"Oh, this is too cruel!" "Well, if you confess You're a dreadful impostor, I'll tell you. There stands—
Down there at the end—Lewis Staunton; and—yes, That's Patrick—the one with the tremulous hands."
"And which is the wife?" "There, next him; she had Hysterics, you know; she looks better to-day. And that's Alice Rhodes with—dear, dear! it's too bad—How that tiresome old warden will get in the way! Ah, there she is now! Oh, how dreadful it is, So young and so—really, you're eating no lunch. D'you believe they are guilty? but, oh, look at this, Quite too awfully funny—this picture in *Punch*." "Ah, yes, very good!" "How was Homburg this year?"
"Don't talk of it! crowded to death. By-the-bye Have you heard that—" "S-sh! pardon me—Hawkins is here, Hueb, fiddles! Up curtain!" "How can you? Oh, fie!"

Thus chatter my lord and my lady gay,
Mid silks that rustle and corsets that pop,
'Till the brief entr'acte of the ghastly play
Ushers in the last scene ere the curtain drop;
Thus languidly focus the *lorgnette's* sight
On the four doomed wretches who waver below
'Twixt a hope that wanes with the waning light
And a dread that grows as the shadows grow!
Thus chattered vain fopling and frivolous dame,
In Rome when her day of debasement had come,
Till the lives at stake in as deadly a game,
Should be signed away by the lifted thumb.
Thus jested and flirted and simpered at death
When the blow went home from the victor's hand,
And the panting hearts in the ring beneath
Throbbled out their last drops on the trampled sand?
—*Pail Mall Gazette*.

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SUPPLEMENT TO THE BOMBAY GAZETTE

BOMBAY:—THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1877.

MR. ARCHIBALD FORBES ON THE WAR.

(*Pall Mall Gazette*.)

MR. ARCHIBALD FORBES is known as the most hard-working, most observant, and most fair-minded of all the newspaper correspondents employed to watch the progress of the war. Writing for the *Daily News* he had exceptional opportunities of seeing what was to be seen—opportunities of which his extraordinary energy enabled him to take full advantage. Obligated by illness to come home, he has employed his leisure in writing an account of the Russians, the Turks, and the Bulgarians, and of their doings since the war commenced, as he himself saw them. This account is printed in the new number of the *Nineteenth Century*; and we say without hesitation that it is far and away the most instructive as well as the most entertaining piece of writing that has appeared on the subject since the war began. We strongly urge our readers to make themselves acquainted with it; not to do so will leave them at a loss. Meanwhile, we cannot refrain from epitomising what Mr. Forbes has to say—necessarily omitting much that is as interesting and as valuable as anything the reader will find below. First as to—

THE RUSSIANS.

Mr. Forbes agrees with most observers that the Russian has many charming qualities. He is a delightful comrade, his good humour is inexhaustible, he puts up with hardships with a light heart, he is humane, has a certain genuine, if unobtrusive, magnanimity, and never decries an enemy. "The frank simplicity of the army amounted to a serious military error; spies might have swarmed unchallenged, and I have no doubt were in truth plentiful. Newspaper correspondents, once received, were accorded a freedom of movement, and were unchecked for a boldness of comment, with a liberal toleration, and often indeed a frank encouragement, unprecedented in the annals of war." [A precisely opposite statement was lately made by the *Times* correspondent with the Russians in Asia.] The Russian officer has the splendid valour of his nationality; he is no braggart, but does his fighting as a matter of course. The Russian private is the finest material for a soldier that the soldier-producing world affords. He is an extraordinary weight-carrying marcher, and has a good stomach for immediate fighting at the end of the longest foodless march. He never grumbles, and is a hard man to starve. He is sincerely pious according to his narrow lights; and this with his whole-hearted devotion to the Czar and his constitutional courage, combines to make him willing, prompt, and brave in battle. But he needs to be led. His reasoning faculties "for lack of education" being comparatively dormant, he does not know what to do when an unaccustomed, or unlooked-for emergency occurs. Somebody must do the thinking for him. If there is nobody in front of him or within sight of him, to undertake the mental part of the work, the Russian soldier gets dazed. Even in his bewilderment, however, he is proof against panic. The Turkish soldier [who equally lacks education] is his master in the intuitive perception of fighting necessities. The former is a born soldier, the latter a brave peasant drilled into a soldier.

Mr. Forbes strenuously denies that the Russian soldiery were ever guilty of atrocities. "On soul and conscience," he says, "I believe the allegations thereof to be utterly false. Of all events which occurred south of the Balkans I have merely hearsay knowledge. 'Atrocities' in plenty were, however, charged against the Russians north of the Balkans, and respecting these I can speak from a wide range of personal experience. The Turks resident in the towns and villages of Bulgaria were peremptorily enjoined by commands from Constantinople to quit their homes and retire before the advancing Russians. In the great majority of cases they did so, and their evacuation was accomplished before the first Russian reached the vicinity of their abodes. This was so at Sistova, at Batuk, and at many other places where murder and rapine were circumstantially and lyingly averred against the Russian soldiers. The Turks who anywhere chose to remain were unmolested without exception, so far as I know. . . . Constantly accompanying Cossacks and other Russian cavalry in reconnaissances on the front of the Rustohuk army, I never noticed even any disposition to be cruel. I do not ever, remember, that atrocities were not committed on fugitive Turks; but not by the Russians. North of the Balkans, at least, Cossack lances and Russian sabres wrought no barbarity on defenceless men, women, and children. The Russian of my experience is instinctively a human man, with a strong innate sense of the manliness of fair play."

So far Mr. Forbes on the vexed question of Russian atrocities. He then proceeds to consider the causes of the Russian failures in the field; and these, he says, are corruption, favouritism (with its inevitable concomitant and result, intrigue), and general deficiency of a sense of responsibility among the officers all down

the roll. It will be enough for us to quote what he has to say on the first of these causes:—

"I tremble to think how high corruption reaches in the Russian army; I shudder to reflect how low it descends. . . . Peculation faces the inquirer at every turn; indeed, it lies patently, glaringly on the surface. An illustrious personage, high in the army and near the throne, has mines which produce iron. Desiring to sell this iron for military purposes, he, spite of his rank and position, had to accede to the universal usage, and bribe to gain his purpose. A Vienna contractor comes to intendant headquarters with intent to sell boots to the army. He learns that it is no use to forward his tender direct in a straightforward business way; he must be introduced. He finds the right person to introduce him, and duly arranges with him the terms under which the favour of introduction is to be accorded. The introduction is made, and the contractor displays his samples and states that he is prepared to supply boots of that quality at six roubles a pair. The answer given him is that his offer will be accepted, but that his invoice must be made out at the rate of seven roubles per pair, although the payment will be at the rate of the tender. . . . Scarcely anywhere are the accumulated Russian stores—at Bucharest, at Fatesti, at Simniza, at Sistova, at Braila—protected by shedding from the destructive influences of weather. Why should they be, when it is in the interest of all concerned, except the State and the army, that the inevitable result should ensue—the rotting and condemnation of a huge proportion of the accumulated stores? The contractors are paid by a commission on the quantity of material laid down by them in certain specified places; their commission is earned when that work has been accomplished, their commission swells in proportion to the quantities of fresh supplies rendered necessary by the unservicability of what has already been laid down. Every intendant concerned has a pinch, greater or smaller according to his position, of this commission, it is to the direct general and several interest of the gang that as much weather damage as may be shall occur among the supplies when once laid down. I venture to assert that every article of consumption or wear supplied to the Russian army costs, by the time it comes into use, more than double what it ought to be under a well-managed and decently honest system. Of other and yet baser corruption—of the little difficulty with which men of whom other things might be expected are to be found willing to be virtual traitors for a consideration, by offering to sell secrets and secret documents—I dare not trust myself to speak."

For what Mr. Forbes has to say about the favouritism in the Russian service, "which as inevitably begets intrigue as rottenness engenders maggots," our readers must go to the *Nineteenth Century* itself; as well as for some very curious and instructive observations on the lack of all sense of responsibility in the Russian military character. It seems that "the Orientalism of the Russian extraction tends to *laissez faire*."

THE TURKS.

And now we come to Mr. Forbes' account of the Turks. He says they are barbarians, pure and simple. "They have neither part nor lot in civilization; their religion and its injunctions, their origin, the area of their empire, their conservatism, bar them out from membership in the European family circle. It may be and has been contended that this being so Europe is no place for them, but with this phase of the subject I have no concern. I would merely remark that when it shall have been conclusively proved that they are out of place in Europe, there remains the physical task of acting on the conclusion; and that task, to the lot of whomsoever it may fall, does not quite bear the aspect of a holiday undertaking." And Mr. Forbes contends that as barbarians and as non-aggressives, it would have been quite consistent for them this spring to have held some such language as the following to all whom it might concern: "We do not want to go to war, but, if any Power thinks proper to assail us, we give due warning that we are barbarians, and will defend ourselves by barbarian tactics. Our religion enjoins on us the ruthless slaughter of the infidel. If we are assailed we give fair warning that we will neither ask nor give quarter; that we will, *more nostro*, torture, chop, hack, and mutilate our wounded enemies, encumber ourselves with no prisoners, despise such finicalities as flags of truce;" and so forth. In not giving this warning Mr. Forbes thinks the Turks "blundered," and not having given it they were wrong in acting up to its terms. He says,—"I have myself seen great clumps of mutilated Russian dead on battle fields. I have watched, without the need of a glass, the Bashi-Bazouks swarming out after an unsuccessful attack on the part of the Russians, and administering the *coup de grace* with fell alacrity, under the eyes of the regulars in the sheltered trenches. This style of fighting is working its inevitable result on the Russian soldier, who hesitates to face this grim additional casualty of the battle-field, and it is no improbable supposition that the candid presentation of it would have weighed with the Russian authorities on whom would have vested the responsibility of making war in the face of it. As a matter of fact, the aggressor knew quite well what to expect." But the

Turks, "while slaying and sparing not, have addressed whining, and it may be added lying, appeals to Europe, invoking the enactments of the Geneva Convention, which they themselves set at naught. Wielding the axe and chopper of ruthless savages, they have acted like a pack of querulous and mendacious old women, in cackling to Europe their trumped-up allegations of violence of civilized warfare on the part of their enemies. They have thus sacrificed the sternly intelligible consistency of an attitude of persistent indomitable barbarism, and have admitted the jurisdiction of a court from whose bar it should have been their policy to stand aloof." And this, Mr. Forbes thinks, has been a capital error on their part. Their second cardinal error, in Mr. Forbes' opinion, is of quite another kind. It was a grave military omission on the part of the Turks not to lay waste Bulgaria when they left that territory open to the invader's occupation. "Had the territory been exclusively inhabited by their own people, it would have been none the less a military duty to have destroyed the corps, burned the villages to the last cottage, and left only desolation behind them. It might have been that some fanatic philanthropists might have clamoured of the inhumanity of this line of action; but sensible people would have sorrowfully recognised it as one of the stern necessities of ever-cruel war." And then Mr. Forbes goes on to say, very fairly and sensibly, If the Turks should have done this had the civilian population been mainly their own people, "how much less incumbent on them was it to admit deterrent humanitarian considerations as the case stood!"

"The whole Turkish population was ordered back by a command from Constantinople: there remained only Bulgarians, co-religionists of the invader, notoriously sympathizers with his aims, notoriously disaffected to Turkish rule, sure to become guides, spies, hewers of wood and drawers of water to their 'deliverers,' willing vendors to those of their substance. To leave behind, instead of reeking desolation, a land flowing with milk and honey, a land swarming with unmolested friends to the invader, was a piece of military lunacy almost unparalleled. The Turks should have driven the Bulgarian population inland before them to the last man, and left extant not a sheaf of barley that could have been destroyed. That they did not do so was the second of the two glaring mistakes I have indicated. When the defects of the Russian supply system are taken into consideration, there is no need to waste space in detailing the certainty, or in speculating on the probability, with which desolating tactics were pregnant. It is no task of mine to inquire why the Turks did not pursue these tactics. It may be said that they did not because of their crassness, their hurry, their carelessness, their lack of military foresight. Why suggest further reasons? But the outcome, as a hard fact, stands that the Bulgarian population, left behind unmolested when the Turks fell back, were spared unheard-of suffering. They were in fact left in full enjoyment of their prosperity, it might be for ever, certainly for an indefinite period. I want to know, if the Turks choose to assert that they thus sacrificed themselves and spared the Bulgarians from motives exclusively of pure humanity, on what valid grounds is any one to contradict them? If I find my way into a cellar full of untold gold, and am found coming out with empty pockets, am I not, even were I by habit and repute a thief, entitled to claim that my honesty deterred me from plunder?"

Moreover, these Bulgarians, says Mr. Forbes, were not only a most prosperous people under Turkish rule; not only was their lot "one for which the practical British philanthropist would gladly see a considerable section of his fellow-countrymen change their own"—but they were known to have been plotting to bring in the invaders. "Persistent efforts have been made to minimize the radius and importance of the organization of that uprising which collapsed so futilely and for which the penalty was so tragic. But these efforts can avail nothing before hard facts. When Tcherniaief was in England last winter, he detailed to me the widespread ramifications of the organization for revolt all over Bulgaria, north as well as south of the Balkans. . . . We know how feeble and patchy was the rising of the Bulgarians in reality, but that was owing not to the scanty area of the organization, but to the unpracticability of the conspirators and the faint heartedness of the instruments. There was no outbreak at all north of the Balkans; but do not let it be supposed therefore that there was no organization for revolt. Everything had been prearranged, but when the time came there was not even a 'cabbage garden' rising." The Bulgarian risings then, such as they were, occurred. "Other insurrections threatened in other regions of the great incongruous Empire. This one at least was in the hollow of their hand; it must be crushed, stamped out, annihilated. The barbarian had got his provocation, and the savage strain in his blood went aboil. We all know what happened in the hapless regions where afterwards Mr. MacGahan wrote [not too accurately] and Lady Strangford worked [so well]. It can be the task surely of no decent man to be the apologist of the Turkish wild beasts who ravaged and ravished in those fell days. But, on the other hand, indignation is mis-

Missing Date

22 JULY 1877

To